

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

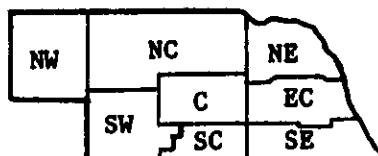
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For Week Ending May 14, 1989

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
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WEATHER

The week was warm and dry in most sections. The only significant rain occurred in the Panhandle and extreme southwest where a half to one and a half inches of rain was reported. The remainder of the State had little or no rainfall. Average temperatures ranged from one to four degrees above normal.

GENERAL

Rains in the Panhandle caused some lowland flooding but the remainder of the State received little or no moisture last week, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Some farmers were planting into dry soil while others were still waiting for rain before planting. Where possible, growers were irrigating to encourage emergence and to activate chemicals. Wind erosion was a problem in the southwest and central portions of the State. Fieldwork consisted of planting corn, sorghum and soybeans; preparing seedbeds; and irrigating. Many operators were staying in contact with county ASCS offices for progress announcements due to the drought conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 6.8.

Topsoil moisture condition declined further last week and rated 98% short and 2% adequate. Subsoil moisture condition rated 81% short and 19% adequate. Last year, topsoil moisture was 64% short and 36% adequate and subsoil moisture was 33% short and 67% adequate.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition declined slightly during the week and rated 32% very poor, 27% poor, 34% fair, and 7% good. The crop was 78% in the joint stage compared with 76% in 1988 and 73% average.

CROPS (Cont.)

Ten percent was headed compared with 8% last year and 13% average. Moderate to severe infestations of wheat streak mosaic were reported in the Panhandle and southwest. Chinch bugs were causing damage in the southeast and drought stress was reported Statewide. Some growers report that their drought-stressed wheat crop may not recover with rain. This year's crop continues to be much shorter than usual.

Corn planting was 82% complete compared with 80% last year and 70% average. The crop was 27% emerged compared to 30% last year and 28% average. Freeze damage was reported in central counties.

Sorghum planting was 13% complete compared with 21% in 1988 and 15% average. Soybeans were 16% planted compared with 25% last year and 12% average. Many sorghum and soybean producers continue to limit planting until rain arrives.

Alfalfa hay condition rated 13% very poor, 28% poor, 45% fair and 14% good. The crop suffered some freeze damage and operators were spraying for alfalfa weevils. Growth has been limited by moisture shortages in most fields. Wild hay condition rated 8% very poor, 28% poor, 62% fair and 2% good.

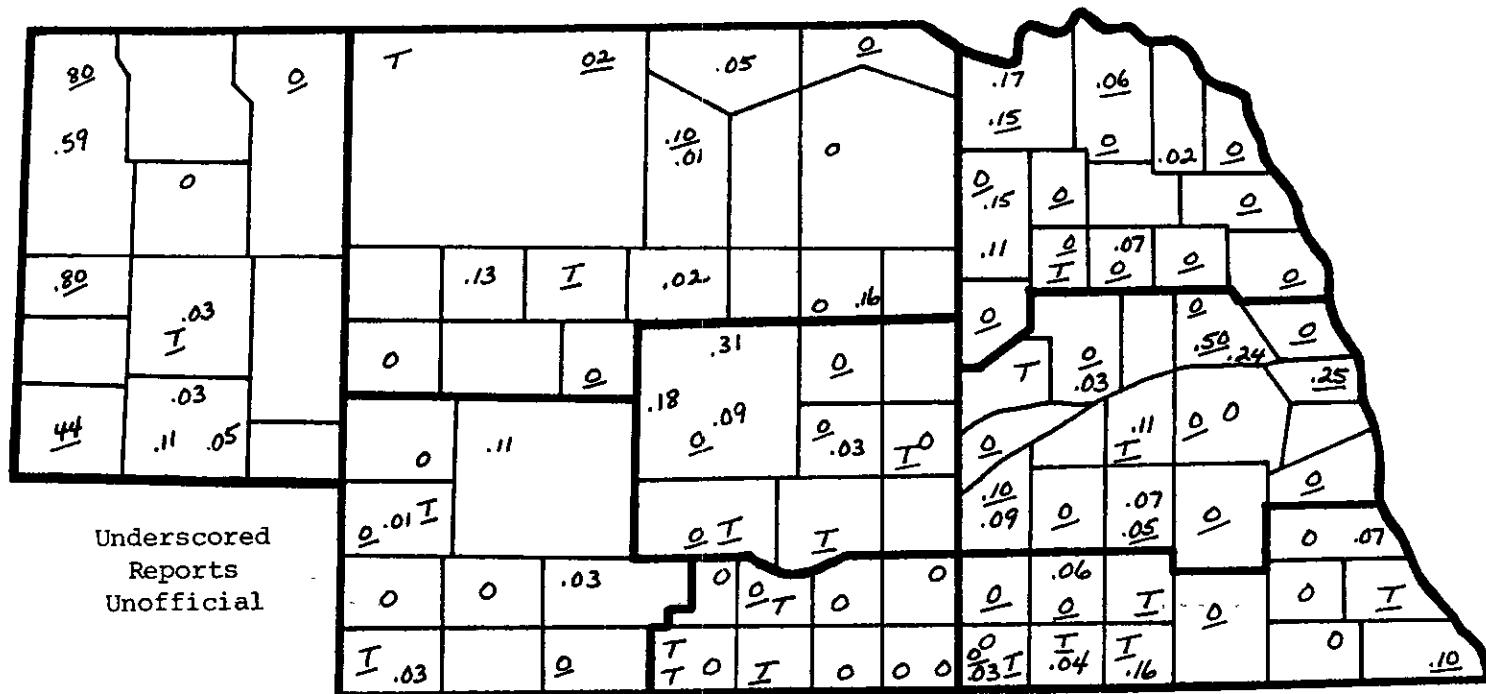
LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range feed supplies rated 90% short and 10% adequate. More cattle were being moved to summer pastures, while others were waiting for rain to allow some pasture growth. Supplemental feeding continues although hay supplies were reported as running low. Operators were selling cattle and cow-calf pairs at an above average rate. Some pastures may not be grazed this year if moisture is not received soon.

Precipitation, April 1 - May 12, 1989

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week14	.04	.10	.12	.08	.03	.00	.04
Total since April 182	.77	1.02	.90	.93	.42	.43	1.21
Normal since April 1	2.93	3.43	3.90	3.75	4.34	2.97	3.47	4.30
Total as % of Normal	28%	22%	26%	24%	21%	14%	12%	28%

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1989



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 14, 1989

Station		Temperature			Precipitation	
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1</u> / <u></u>
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	81	42	58	--	.50
	Scottsbluff	83	44	59	+4	1.52
	Sidney	78	44	58	--	.19
NC	Ord	78	32	59	--	0
	Valentine	81	33	59	+3	.20
NE	Norfolk	80	38	60	+1	T
	Sioux City	80	39	62	+2	T
CEN	Grand Island	84	36	62	+3	.08
EC	Lincoln	85	34	62	+2	0
	Omaha	80	48	63	+3	T
SW	Imperial	81	44	60	--	.74
	North Platte	80	36	58	+2	.15

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

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